



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

July 19, 1977

TO: P - Mr. Habib
FROM: D/HA - Patt Derian

Indochinese Refugee Parole Action

We are taking the following preliminary steps in anticipation of eventual approval by the Attorney General of a parole action for Indochinese refugees:

-- Inviting interested bureaus of the Department and AID (EA, SCA, IO, L, H, AID/ASIA) to join with us at brief coordination meetings at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

-- We have had preliminary discussions with INS at the working level on criteria and other questions relating to implementation. We will meet with Commissioner Castillo as soon as the Attorney General approves the parole action.

-- The VOLAGS have been invited to meet with us at 10:30 a.m. on July 22 to discuss their role in such a program if approved.

-- The International Rescue Committee (IRC), which is the joint VOLAG Representative in Thailand for the boat case program has been asked to pick up three ex-PCV's who were members of our Bangkok unit for the Expanded Parole Program (EPP) for 11,000 Indochinese. Now in the United States and interested in returning for the new program, they will be on their way almost immediately and will assist in further screening of the Lao camps. IRC has also

been asked to look for additional good PCV's completing their tour in Thailand. Funding will be from refugee emergency funds already available to be channeled through UNHCR.

-- Church World Services (CWS) is the joint VOLAG Representative in Malaysia where there are almost 3,000 boat case refugees and which will probably be our first priority for movement in the new program. CWS has been asked to increase their staff in Malaysia on an urgent basis.

-- We are also trying to make available AID officer Mac Alan Thompson, formerly our deputy for the EPP, to go to Malaysia on an urgent basis to assist the post in preparing for this effort. AID has some problems in releasing Thompson but we hope Don Mc Donald will be able to be helpful.

-- Lionel Rosenblatt, formerly chief of our Bangkok EPP unit, is leaving tomorrow as part of an AID/State team to develop proposals for long term resettlement of Indochinese refugees in Thailand, an essential part of the longer term solution. Lionel has been coordinating with us and following developments closely. We are asking him to discuss the parole action with INS Regional Director Sam Feldman in Hong Kong and Consular and Refugee Officers in Bangkok and provide us with their views by phone. As in the case of the EPP, we expect to develop implementation procedures for the new parole action by way of extensive telephone consultation with Bangkok and other posts.

-- We are currently preparing a tentative initial proposal for the implementation of the parole action for 15,000 Indochinese.

-- I understand the Attorney General's office requires additional information and justification on the parole action and we will be developing this on a priority basis.

Concurrence: EA - Mr. Barnes ¹¹

Drafted by: D/HA:ORM:SCLowman:caf:ext. 20770
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